

Appln No. 10/713,066  
Amtd. Dated March 2, 2005  
Response to Office Action of February 7, 2005

3

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Amendment, page 1 of the specification is amended to insert updated cross-reference information to the related applications to the present application.

Claims 1 to 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 112. In taking this objection, the Examiner has highlighted perceived inconsistencies between claim 1 and the description. With respect, Applicant disagrees.

Page 7 lines 4-11 and 17-22 describe the construction and operation of the capping mechanism. The capping mechanism has a capping portion 80 which includes a peripheral seal 86. From lines 7-8, *"When the printer is not in use, the platen member is rotated so that the capping portion 80 contacts the bottom of the printhead, sealing in a locus surrounding the microapertures 44"*. Thus, there is contact between the capping mechanism and the nozzle guard of the printhead assembly, the contact being on a surface surrounding the microapertures so that the microapertures are capped and sealed within the capping arrangement. The Examiner has indicated that this makes the claim inconsistent with claim 1. However, claim 1 only defines that there is no contact between the capping mechanism and the microapertures of the nozzle guard, not the nozzle guard itself. The quoted page of the description and the illustration in Figure 21 demonstrate an embodiment in which there is contact between the seal and the nozzle guard without contact between the seal and the microapertures within the nozzle guard. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is clear and is consistent with the description and that the §112 objection is hereby traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

Applicant:



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4

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